

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01235 071130Z

20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 SY-05 A-01 PER-01

/071 W

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O 071052Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8533

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VVAIHINGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1235

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. FRANGIE AND KARAME LEFT THIS MORNING FOR DAMASCUS.
THEY FINALLY MADE THE TRIP BY PLANE, WHICH SUGGESTS
CONTINUED SECURITY PROBLEMS IN THE BEKAA. WHILE SOURCES
VARY, BEST INDICATIONS ARE THAT AN AGREEMENT GUARANTEE-
ING THE CEASE FIRE AND ITS LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS
WILL COME OUT OF THE MEETING. IT IS
NOT CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT
FRANGIE HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED
TO NEGOTIATE INTERNAL LEBANESE POLITICS WITH ASAD
(I.E. THE FAMOUS "FIVE POINTS"). THEREFORE SEEMS
PROBABLE THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLITICAL AGREEMENT
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WILL CONTINUE PERIOD OF INTENSE POLITICAL JOCKEYING

HERE AS CHRISTIANS TRY TO MINIMIZE PRACTICAL EFFECT
OF ANY CONCESSIONS THEY HAVE MADE AND MOSLEMS SUCH AS
JUBLATT TRY TO GET A BIGGER PIECE OF THE AGREEMENT.

2. SECURITY SITUATION DETERIORATED SOMEWHAT YESTERDAY
IN THAT THERE WERE QUITE A NUMBER OF KIDNAPPINGS,
KILLING OF INNOCENT PASSERS BY (PARTICULARLY ONE INCID-
ENT OF MOSLEM PALESTINIANS LSAUGHTERED IN JOUNIEH),
AND A BIT OF SHOOTING. BY AND LARGE, HOWEVER, CITY
AND COUNTRY-SIDE REMAIN REASONABLY PACIFIC. HIGHER
MILITARY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY
MEASURES FOR TODAY AS PRECAUTION IN VIEW OF CHRISTIAN
OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE ON "BLACK SATURDAY" IN DECEMBER,
WHEN GEMAYEL WENT TO DAMASCUS. THE PUBLIC WAS ASKED
NOT TO USE BEIRUT-TRIPOLI ROAD TODAY. PLA FORCES
WERE AUTHORIZED TO SHOOT ARMED ELEMENTS ON SIGHT AS A
MEANS OF PREVENTING KIDNAPPING, BUT INTERESTINGLY
ENOUGH PLA WERE SPECIFICALLY NOT AUTHORIZED TO STOP
VEHICLES AND SEARCH THEM OR ASK TO SEE IDENTITY CARDS
OF THE OCCUPANTS. THIS IS SIGN OF CONTINUED SYRIAN
SENSITIVITY TO APPEARANCE OF RUNNING THE COUNTRY.

3. SAIQA'S ZOHAIH MOHSEN MADE UNHELPFUL STATEMENT
IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW GIVEN YESTERDAY TO GERMAN,
NORWEGIAN AND CANADIAN CORRESPONDENTS IN WHICH HE
REPORTEDLY AFFIRMED THAT FOLLOWING THE EXPECTED POLITICAL
REFORMS, LEBANON WILL BECOME A CONFRONTATION STATE
VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL. PHALANGE LEADER GEMAYEL FOR HIS PART
MADE PARALLEL UNHELPFUL STATEMENT CALLING ON SYRIA TO
USE ITS INFLUENCE TO GET MOST PALESTIN-
IANS NOW IN LEBANON RESETTLED IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. FINALLY,
MOSLEM CONSERVATIVE SEAB SALAM GAVE PRESS HIS OWN
PROGRAM OF POLITICAL REFORM WHICH INCLUDED PROPOSAL FOR
A PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE PRESI-
DENT, WITH ITS CHAIRMAN REVOLVING FOR ONE YEAR TERM
AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE CHRISTIAN AND THREE

MOSLEM COMMUNITIES--AN OBVIOUS NON-STARTER.
LAMBRAKIS

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